

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 77 through 94 will remain pending. By the present response, claims 77, 81 and 89 through 94 will have been amended.

In view of the herein-contained amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested. Such action is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

Initially, Applicants note that the Examiner has not acknowledged their claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119. Nor has the Examiner confirmed receipt of the certified copy of the foreign priority document that was filed in parent application No. 09/320, 543 which is now U.S. Patent Number 6, 710, 789. Since a copy of the above noted priority document was filed in the above noted parent application, the Examiner is respectfully requested, in the next Official Action in the present application, to confirm Applicants' claim for foreign priority and to confirm receipt of the foreign priority document upon which the claim is based.

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for indicating consideration of the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on August 27, 2004, the December 15, 2004 and May 2, 2006 by the return of the signed and initialed PTO 1449 forms attached thereto. However, the Examiner has not returned the PTO 1449 forms that accompanied the Information Disclosure Statements filed on December 15, 2004 and May 2, 2006. Accordingly, Applicants

respectfully request that the Examiner forward copies of the appropriately filled out PTO-1449 forms with the next official action in the present application.

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for accepting the drawings filed in the present application on January 2, 2004.

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 77 and 81 were objected to because of language informalities. By the present response, these claims have been amended to eliminate the noted language informalities.

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 77 and 81 were was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner noted a term in claim 77 that he asserted to be lacking sufficient antecedent basis. By the present response, Applicants have amended claim 77 to eliminate any basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 89 through 94 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Examiner asserted that these claims failed to comply with the enablement requirement. In particular, the Examiner asserted that a computer readable medium, as recited in these claims, is not enabled. However, the Examiner noted that a software program stored on the computer readable medium comprising instructions to perform the recited steps would meet the enablement requirement.

By the present response, Applicants have amended each of the above noted claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 89 through 94 are no longer subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner indicated claims 79, 80, and 83 through 88 to be allowed. The Examiner additionally indicated that claim 77, 78, 81, 82, and 89 through 94 would be allowable if the claim objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are overcome.

In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that any basis for objection or rejection of any of the claims in the present application have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding objections and rejections, together with an indication of the allowability of all the claims in the present application.

Applicants additionally respectfully thank the Examiner for his indication of allowable subject matter in the present application.

Applicants note the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with any of the features or reasons set forth by the Examiner in his statement, Applicants wish to further point out that each of the independent claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features and that the patentability of each claim is also based on the particular totality of the combination of features recited therein. Accordingly,

the reasons for allowance should not necessarily be limited to those features enumerated by the examiner.

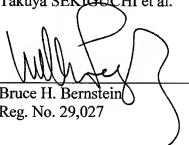
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have amended the claims to eliminate all objections and all in formalities of language. Applicants have additionally overcome the Examiners rejection of the claims.

Any amendments the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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